



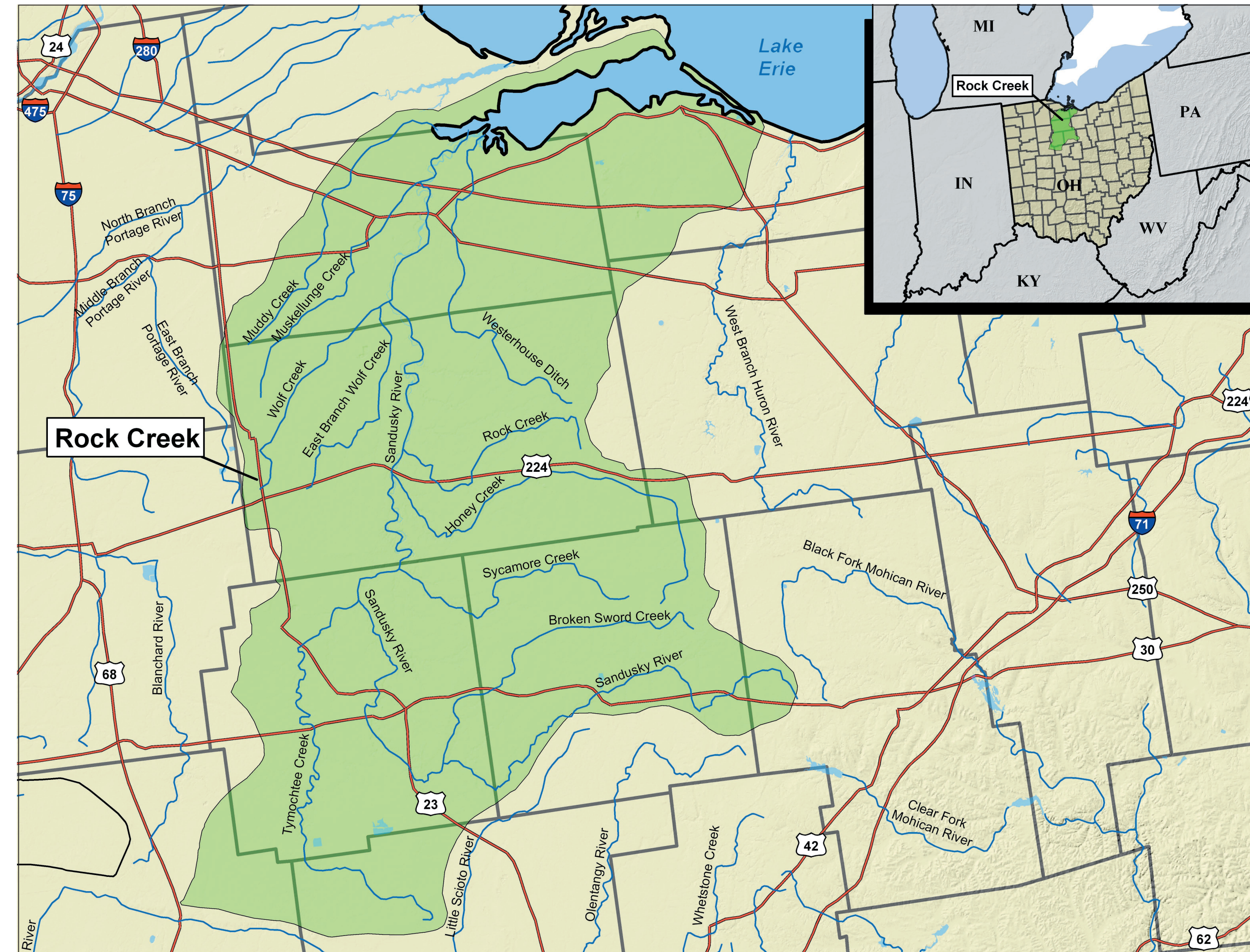
United States Department of Agriculture

Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP)

Rock Creek Watershed, Ohio: 2004-2007



A CSREES* Competitive Grant Watershed, one of 24 CEAP watershed projects.



Approach

Water sampling: Flow, sediment, phosphorus, nitrogen, ammonia, silica, sulfate, chloride, fluoride, pesticides, and metals

Watershed models: AnnAGNPS (Annualized Agricultural Nonpoint Source)

Assess practices: Placement and timing of conservation practices, optimal mix of practices, lag times in water quality responses.

Communicating Results

Project reports, professional meetings, one or more peer-reviewed papers in professional journals.

Collaborators

- Heidelberg College
- University of Toledo
- Ohio State University
- USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- USDA, Farm Service Agency
- Seneca County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Local farmers and ranchers and stakeholders

Contacts

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NRCS State Conservationist
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CEAP Assessment

Evaluate agricultural land use and water quality trends; model alternative management scenarios to optimize water quality.

Watershed Description

- 22,000 acres
- 82% crop land, 16% forest
- Listed by Ohio EPA as impaired for aquatic life.

Issues: Sediment and nutrient losses from an agricultural watershed, suburban development, fish and aquatic habitat, wildlife habitat.

*Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service



Native grasses and trees in a conservation buffer.



Leaving a few rows of unharvested corn or other grain near good wildlife cover adds to habitat for a number of species of wildlife.



Conservation tillage leaves at least 30 percent of the soil covered after planting with last year's crop residue. Residue adequately controls erosion by both wind and water on this soil type.

Timeline

2003 Initial funding	2004 August CEAP bibliographies	2005 May Wetlands peer review	July Wildlife literature review (program-based)	October Cropland literature reviews Wildlife literature review (practice-based) Wildlife Work Plan	November Wetlands Work Plan	December Draft findings— Prairie Pothole region
2006 February Preliminary habitat quality models— Prairie Potholes wetland region	March Preliminary National Assessment Report	2007 Fall National Assessment Final Report	2008 January CSREES Watershed final reports			

www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/nri/ceap/